



## **MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Regular Meetings: The First, Second,  
and Third Tuesday of each month**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**County Courthouse  
Bridgeport, California 93517**

**June 10, 2008**

**9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Supervisor Vikki Bauer**

**Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Bill Reid**

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one Spoke

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS** are deferred to meeting of June 17, 2008

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

- 1)** CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)  
ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO)  
regarding his activities.

CAO Report is deferred to meeting of June 17, 2008

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
None

**Exit to Closed Session: 9:04 a.m. Nothing to report**

**Recess: 10:15 a.m.**

**Reconvene Regular Session: 10:20 a.m.**

## CLOSED SESSION

### COUNTY COUNSEL

- 3a) Conference with Legal Counsel (**Marshall Rudolph, Dave Wilbrecht, Brian Muir, and Bob Garret**)  
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Government Code section 54956.9. Number of potential cases: one.

### ADDENDUM COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 3b) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, Rick Scholl, and Brian Muir. Employee Organization: Mono County Sheriff's Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association).

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Lynda Roberts, County Clerk: Report on new agenda software...will take a little time to get all worked out. Election process went smoothly and it went well on Election Day. Thanks to all the departments who assisted with Election.

Jody Henning, Assessor: getting acquainted with staff; considering requesting extension of roll – wants to get hard numbers on backlog; wants to get appraisal done for Mammoth Mtn. to include in this roll may not be able to do this.

Evan Nikirk, Public Works Director: Lundy Lake Road Rehabilitation Project...underway but discovered that asphalt was placed on bedrock – patching should be completed today. Solid Waste Hearing scheduled for June 17, 2008 has been postponed for a second time. New receptionist doing a great job; Dave Dijkstra has turned in his resignation effective July 25, 2008 – hoping to find a candidate that can step in and take over (possibly from within ranks)

### CONSENT AGENDA

- 4a) There are no consent agenda items.

### REGULAR AGENDA

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 4b) No correspondence was received for this meeting.

### PUBLIC WORKS

- 5a) Temporary Road Closures for, and Assistance with, the Bridgeport Fourth of July Celebration (**Evan Nikirk**)  
**R08-29 ACTION:** 1. Consider and potentially adopt **Resolution No. R08-29**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Authorizing the

Temporary Closure of Roads in Bridgeport and the Temporary Detour of Traffic onto Roads in Bridgeport from State Highway 395 for the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridgeport Fourth of July Celebration.”

**Reid/Hazard 5-0**

**R08-30**

2. Consider and potentially adopt **Resolution No. R08-30**, “A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Authorizing the Department of Public Works to Assist with Setting Up and Disassembling Facilities Associated with the 146th Annual Bridgeport Fourth of July Celebration.”

**Reid/Hunt 5-0**

**FINANCE, Additional Departments:** Assessor, Information Technology

**6a)**

Megabyte Integrated Property Tax Management Software (**Scott Jonk, Felicia Lopez, and Ted Lopez of Megabyte Systems, Inc.**)

Brian Muir addresses Board re history is needing a system and a way to communicate between Assessor, Auditor and Tax Collector.

Sharon Zachte, President & CEO addresses Board and introduces other associates from Megabyte Systems, Inc. Felicia Lopez, Ted Lopez and Scott Jonk.

**ACTION:** Receive presentation by Sharon Zachte, President, Scott Jonk, Professional Services Manager; Felicia Lopez, Senior Property Tax Consultant; and Ted Lopez, Senior Property Tax Consultant of Megabyte Systems, Inc. regarding Megabyte Property Tax Software. Provide any desired direction to staff.

Questions from Board members: Farnetti: cost? Tom Wallace; Bauer: will this take load off of IT? Yes it will take load off IT as they spend a great deal of time “patching” the system. Reid: How long will set up time be? Flexible – July is best time, beginning of the fiscal year. Hazard: Have we contacted other counties that use MegaByte? Yes Hunt: sounds like a step in efficiency – how are costs allocated between the three departments?

Assessor Jody Henning as worked with many counties that are on MegaByte System. Easy when working on an audit. (worked for the State Board of Equalization) Bauer: policy item during budget process. Hazard: need to investigate transitions in other counties and issues they faced.

Tony asks if \$625,000 is being spent are there any considerations as to eliminate staff? Brian: employees can be reassigned to other duties in their office. Brian Muir will do time assessment evaluation of employees time if MegaByte is implemented – he will present with budget item.

Farnetti: supports the idea of new system. Hazard speaks in support but wants to see more.

Farnetti suggests that Board Reports and CAO Reports be deferred to meeting of June 17, 2008

Meeting is adjourned for lunch at 11:40 a.m. and will reconvene at the Lee Vining Community Center at 1:00 p.m.

**1:00 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: LEE VINING COMMUNITY CENTER**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

**7a)**

Proposed Legislation to Designate Certain Land as Wilderness and Oversnow Vehicle Use in the Eastern Sierra - Known as "The Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act". (**Representatives from Senator Barbara Boxer's and Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon's Office.**)

**ACTION:** Approve resolution of support as presented by Supervisor Hunt. **Hunt/Farnetti** (After discussion, this motion was withdrawn)

**M08-122**      **ACTION:** Request that Senator Boxer and Congressman McKeon direct their staffs to return to negotiations for a final draft to be returned to the Board of Supervisors for their review and action to approve, reject, or remain neutral.  
***Hazard/Reid*** (5-0)

Representing Senator Boxer's Office: Ameen Khan, Jeff Rosato, and Thomas Bohigian  
Representing Congressman McKeon's Office: Bob Haueter and Conor McGee  
Observers from Senator Feinstein's office: Shelly Abajian, Sara Moffat, Jim Molonari

The Congressional staffs reported on the proposed legislation:

- The proposal is a bi-partisan bill introduced in both the House and Senate.
- The proposal does a number of things including establishing recreational areas in Bridgeport, releasing 51,000 acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and designating a substantial amount of wilderness.
- Everyone has given up something; this is a compromise hopefully everyone can feel good about. There are still some issues to resolve.
- Efforts have been made to develop the best possible plan that is good for Mono County and the Eastern Sierra.
- Both sides want this legislation to move through this year.
- This is a compromise done with the greatest effort and intent for success.
- Congressman McKeon decided that a compromise should include local input, and local representatives from the community (supervisors and citizens) were asked to work together on a compromise.
- Congressman McKeon's overall goal has been to designate wilderness, release WSAs and preserve snowmobiling areas.
- The process today is the beginning; there is now a framework of legislation, and now is the time to tweak it.
- The public needs to share their comments with their representatives over the next several weeks.

#### Public Comments

The following people expressed support for the compromise. Some of the speakers suggested including certain areas in the bill such as parts of McGee Peak, Coyote Flats, Sherwin Bowl, Valentine Lake trail, Solitude Canyon, and Table Mountain; they encouraged clear designation of area boundaries; encouraged enforcement to keep snowmobiles out of designated wilderness; asked for a change of the White Mountain boundary; and expressed the need for buffer areas. Many of the speakers acknowledged that this is a compromise and not everyone will get what they want. Speakers urged support so the bill goes through the current legislative session.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Skip Harvey      | • Andrew Foster    |
| • Elizabeth Tenney | • Ray Turner       |
| • Jeff Griffiths   | • Sara Barth       |
| • Brian Knox       | • Sharon Clark     |
| • Tim Alpers       | • Rich Fairbanks   |
| • George Lozito    | • Jake Holland     |
| • Andrea Lawrence  | • Patty Heinrich   |
| • Sally Miller     | • Bryce Wheeler    |
| • Geoff McQuilkin  | • Dianna Sanford   |
| • John Dittli      | • Chris McCreedy   |
| • Chris Lizza      | • Jack Shipley     |
| • Paul McFarland   | • Frank Stewart    |
| • Bill Bramlette   | • Bill Mitchel     |
| • Wilma Wheeler    | • Steve McLaughlin |

- Janet Carle
- Lynn Inouye
- Wendy Sugimura
- Everett Emerson
- Malcolm Clark
- Jean Dillingham
- Frances Chulewa
- Ryan Carle
- Margaret Verba
- Dan Dawson
- Carol Broberg
- Stacy Corless
- Mark Drew
- Phyllis Benham
- Mary Prentice
- Allan Pietasanta
- Linda Arnold
- Darla Heil
- Ceal Klingler
- John C. Williams
- Tom Heindel
- Sydney Quinn
- David Grah
- Michael White
- Sara Steck
- Steve White
- Darren Malloy
- James Wilson
- Pam Vaughan
- Ryan Henson
- Steve Evans

The following people did not support the compromise. Speakers' concerns included: designating wilderness boundaries near developed areas, ensuring that cherry stemmed roads are retained, losing snowmobile access in some areas, addressing needs of the agricultural community, ensuring water rights, closing Furnace Creek, imposing too much regulation, rushing through the process, including areas that don't have wilderness aspects, wanting to retain all forms of recreation, abutting wilderness and recreation areas, wanting to retain access to areas commonly used by the Native American community, retaining roads to provide for handicap access.

- John Eastman
- Bill Sausser
- George Milovich
- Dave Doonan
- Richard Moss
- Ron Schiller
- Jake Doonan
- Jeff Hansen
- Dan Jacobs
- Colleen Dickinson
- Ann Marie Astills
- Jon Patzer
- Bruce Cotton
- Thelma Heatherly

The following speakers did not specify a position. Speakers suggested that compromise should include proposing alternate land designations; urged the Board to take agricultural concerns into consideration; urged the Board not to rush the process, urged the Board to consider recreational needs and mineral resources.

- Tim Hansen
- John Wentworth
- Mary Piepersky
- Gary Pintar
- David Tanskley
- Mark Davis

Written comments received:

- Support: 126 (four of these people also spoke); a list containing 2, 911 names of people supporting the bill was also presented
- No Support: 5 (two of these people also spoke)
- Unsure: 2

Supervisor Hazard asked Jim Upchurch, Forest Service, to address how roads and snowmobile grooming will be impacted.

- Upchurch: The Upper Owens has three designations, (1) primitive, which keeps areas wild; (2) scenic, which does not preclude motorized use or roaded development; and (3) recreation corridors.
- Mr. Bohigian: This bill does not close any legal designated routes on either BLM or Forest Service land.
- Marty Honeck, Inyo National Forest: The Forest Service was not involved in creating the maps, but they appear to be consistent with proposed Forest Service action.

Supervisor Bauer asked if Furnace Creek is included on one of the maps. Mr. Bohigian said the road closure is at a gated road that is currently closed.

A question was asked about PILT money (payment-in-lieu of taxes). Mr. Bohigian said Senator Boxer has fought to fully fund PILT.

Chairwoman Bauer closed the public hearing.

#### Board Discussion

- Supervisor Reid: Not prepared to make a decision today; needs more time to review the information presented and the modifications. Supported various aspects of the bill including the Bridgeport recreation area, releasing the WSAs, retaining legally designated roads, continuing grazing rights, and retaining access for commercial packing businesses. His final decision will be based on an analysis of comments, language in the bill correlating to the maps, modifications, and personal knowledge of the land. He supported retaining access for those with disabilities.
- Supervisor Hazard: Supported moving forward so ongoing issues can be resolved. Regarding enforcement of boundaries, need to change the way enforcement is handled using today's technology (such as vibration, sound, and magnetic detection equipment). Three areas of concern: (1) Laurel Lakes area: concern that the border is too far down and will jeopardize the ability to monitor earthquake activity with equipment; (2) McGee Creek face: needs to accommodate cell-phone service and high-speed internet service; (3) south side of Rock Creek: concern about maintaining access for fire equipment. Regarding Furnace Creek, OHV use in the riparian area is a problem; requested that the cherry-stemmed road extend far enough to establish access for those with disabilities. Also requested that the dispute over Furnace Creek be resolved (one way or the other) in the proposed bill. Regarding agriculture, this is the second leading industry in the County and needs to be protected. Requested language to support law enforcement. This bill is a good compromise, but needs some fine tuning.
- Supervisor Hunt: This bill provides Mono County with the opportunity to continue to be the "wild side" of California; wilderness is our vision. The Board needs time to digest what has been presented, but needs to support the congressional delegation and their continued work. He presented a suggested resolution of support for the work done so far, while not addressing the details today.
- Supervisor Farnetti: This bill will not make everyone happy, but there is a tremendous amount of support for it. Details have been discussed that need to be addressed; confident that those working on this bill can resolve issues. Pointed out an issue involving Mammoth Mountain's access to certain areas that needs to be addressed. Very supportive of the proposed bill.
- Chairwoman Bauer: There is wide and deep support for the proposed bill. Agreed with other Supervisors' comments; finalization seems to be close. Pointed out that the

wilderness border should not be too close to June Mountain. Supported the snowmobile access in Bridgeport, the Owens River compromise, and the WSA releases. Would like funding attached to some of the bill (such as transportation funding) in order to help people access wilderness and public lands.

Mr. Bohigian: Should be able to resolve or address most of the issues in a satisfactory way. Have a rough idea how to resolve snowmobile issues; Furnace Creek is a little more difficult. Regarding agriculture, this proposal doesn't affect water rights. The Forest Service addressed issues about roads. Want to see a bill that protects the resources and allows for economic activity.

Mr. Haueter: This is a historic compromise. Very sympathetic to the ranchers and these issues were addressed to Congressman McKeon. Water rights cannot be impacted or pre-empted by wilderness designation, which allows for continued use of the cherry-stem roads. Jim Upchurch of the Forest Service has given assurance about the water rights. The Congressman is concerned about the snowmobile riders, and there is a willingness to address this issue.

Regarding the resolution of support presented by Supervisor Hunt for approval, the Board commented as follows:

- Supervisor Reid: A simple motion will further the process; a late presented resolution seems inappropriate.
- Supervisor Hazard: Agree with Supervisor Reid; the direction to staff is to continue working on the compromise
- Supervisor Hunt: Withdrew his motion, but would like to see a resolution of support passed at some point.

**ADJOURN: 6:45 p.m.**

The next regular meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2008, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.